

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EEWT, UR,US

SUBJECT: STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OFFICIALS

DISCUSS US-SOVIET TRADE PROSPECTS

1. SUMMARY: AT MEETING FEBRUARY 11 WITH COMMERCIAL ATTACHE,
COMMOFF AND VISITING USDOC/BEWT OFFICIAL, S.A. GLEBOV AND

A.S. BARINOV OF STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY'S
FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT (USA DIVISION) TOOK EXCEPTIONALLY
POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON DEVELOPMENT OF US-SOVIET TRADE AND
ECONOMIC/TECHNICAL COOPERATION. THEY ATTRIBUTED MANY OF
PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE ARISEN ON SOVIET SIDE TO INABILITY OF
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE TO KEEP UP WITH ACTION (SEE SEPTTEL).
THEY ALSO GAVE RUN-DOWN ON STATUS OF SEVERAL PENDING US-SOVIET
MAJOR PROJECTS (SEE SEPTTEL), WHICH WASHIGHLIGHTED BY CLAIM
THAT PROJECTED SIBERIAN TRUCK PLANT WOULD HAVE ANNUAL CAPACITY
OF 500,000 UNITS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN DISCUSSING PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF US-SOVIET
TRADE, GLEBOV AND BARINOV TOOK VERY POSITIVE STANCE. GLEBOV
RECOUNTED CONVERSATION WHICH HE HAD WITH OFFICIAL OF MINISTRY
OF NON-FERROUS METALLURGY ON JANUARY 14, WHO CALLED GLEBOV
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AND SAID MINISTRY ASSUMED THAT PROPOSED DEAL WITH KAISER ALUMINUM

SHOULD BE DROPPED IN LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS ON TRADE AGREEMENT. GLEBOV SAID HE WAS ABLE TO CALM THE MINISTRY OFFICIAL, AND HE ADDED THAT STATE COMMITTEE HAD MADE MAJOR EFFORT THROUGHOUT SOVIET ECONOMIC ESTABLISHMENT TO PREVENT OVER-REACTION TO JANUARY 13 ANNOUNCEMENT. LOOKING AHEAD, GLEBOV SAID STATE COMMITTEE WAS MOST ANXIOUS THAT AGREEMENT BE REACHED ON AT LEAST ONE OF PENDING US-SOVIET MAJOR PROJECTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS WOULD, HE SAID, HAVE VERY GOOD IMPACT ON OVERALL US-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP, INCLUDING THE "POLITICAL AREA." IN CONTEXT OF DISCUSSION, IT WAS CLEAR THAT GLEBOV SAW EITHER KAISER PROJECT OR PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH UNION CARBIDE FOR FERRO-ALLOY PLANT (BOTH OF WHICH ARE WITHIN HIS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY) AS BEST PROSPECTS FOR SHORT TERM.

3. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND IN LINE WITH ITS TENDENCY TO TAKE LONGER-RANGE VIEW, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT STATE COMMITTEE WOULD BE INCLINED TO BRUSH ASIDE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY U.S. TRADE BILL AND EX-IM LEGISLATION AS MINOR PROBLEMS WHICH SHOULD NOT INTERRUPT PROGRESS IN DEVELOPMENT OF US-SOVIET ECONOMIC COOPERATION. IN FACT, ATTITUDES ENCOUNTERED IN SOVIET INDUSTRIAL MINISTRIES TOWARD DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WITH U.S. COMPANIES REMAINS QUITE POSITIVE. AS EXAMPLE, AT MEETING FEBRUARY 11 AT MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY WITH V.V. KUMLEV (MINISTER KOSTANDOV'S "ASSISTANT" FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS), KUMLEV ASSURED COMMATT THAT MINISTRY'S ATTITUDE WAS UNCHANGED. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OF THE U.S. FIRMS WITH WHICH MINISTRY WAS WORKING (HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED PPG) SEEMED TO BE HANGING BACK IN LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS ON TRADE BILL AND ASKED WHETHER COMMOFF COULD ENCOURAGE SUCH COMPANIES TO MOVE AHEAD MORE RAPIDLY. STOESEL

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